



**ST JAMES THE GREAT**  
*Catholic Church in Petts Wood*

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



*St James – A shining light in Petts Wood*

## IN THIS EDITION | **December 2025**

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and Christmas Fair**

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Christmas Collection

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 [stjamespettswood](#)

# Advent and Christmas 2025

## St James The Great

**Christmas Offerings** - The collection at the Masses over the Christmas period are your personal offerings for your Parish Priest.

**Parish Office: Christmas Opening** - Please note that the parish office will be closed from Wednesday 24th December, re-opening on Monday 5th January 2026. Emails sent during this period may not be read until 5th January, however we will do everything we can to respond to any urgent emails.

**Fr Daniel's Annual Leave** - Fr Daniel will be taking his annual leave from Monday 5th January to Friday 13th February. We wish him a peaceful and restful break.

**Christmas Crib** - Poinsettias Needed - If you would like to donate some poinsettias for the crib this Christmas, they would be gratefully received. Please drop them off in the church or at the Parish Office by the 17th December.

**Repository** - Please check out the new Christmas stock in the Repository. Christmas cards, candles, ornaments, 2026 calendars and diaries.

**Christmas Day Lunch with Fr. Daniel** - Fr Daniel would like to invite you to Christmas lunch if you will be on your own this year. Please contact the Parish Office if you would like to come. Volunteers Are Needed to Help Prepare Christmas Lunch with Fr. Daniel on Thursday 25th December!

Would you like to help organise Christmas lunch for Fr. Daniel and his parish guests in the Community Centre this year? If you have ideas and would like to help please email the Parish Office: [pettswood@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:pettswood@rcaos.org.uk)

**Gifts for Christmas** - This year St James will be doing something a little different to our usual Christmas gift collection. We will be supporting two very worth while charities, Bromley Foodbank and The Cardinal Hume Centre, please see further information about the fantastic work of the Cardinal Hume Centre does under the JPIC entry on page 10.

**So please donate food items from the list below and leave in the foodbank baskets at the entrance of the church and any sleeping bags (new or second hand) can be left under the Christmas trees on the sanctuary.**

### **Bromley Foodbank Wish List:**

- Long Life Fruit Juice
- Long Life Milk
- Long Life Desserts
- Tinned Potatoes
- Squash
- Sugar
- Nappies Size 6/ 6+
- Baby Wipes
- Multi Surface wipes and Sprays
- Ladies Deodorants
- Bleach
- Shampoo and Conditioners
- ShavingFoam/Gel

# St James the Great Christmas Mass Times

## **Advent Carol Service**

Sunday 21st December at 3pm

## **Taize/Advent Reconciliation Service**

Monday 22nd December

Taize Service at 6.30pm

Advent Reconciliation Service at 7.30pm

## **Christmas Eve**

Wednesday 24th December at 6pm

## **Carols and Midnight Mass**

Wednesday 24th December at 11.30pm

## **Christmas Day**

Thursday 25th December

9.15am Children's Mass and 11am

Friday 26th December at 10am

## **New Year**

Thursday 1st January 2026 at 11am





# St James' Christmas Fair 2025

on Sunday 14th December  
after the 9.15am and 11am Masses  
in the Community Centre

Santa will be visiting

Bottle & Sweet Tombola

Children's Christmas Craft

Bookstall

Cakes

Bar, Tea and Coffee



# Pastoral Care Pillar

Father Daniel and the Pastoral Care team would like to wish everybody at St James the Great a very Happy and Holy Christmas and New Year.

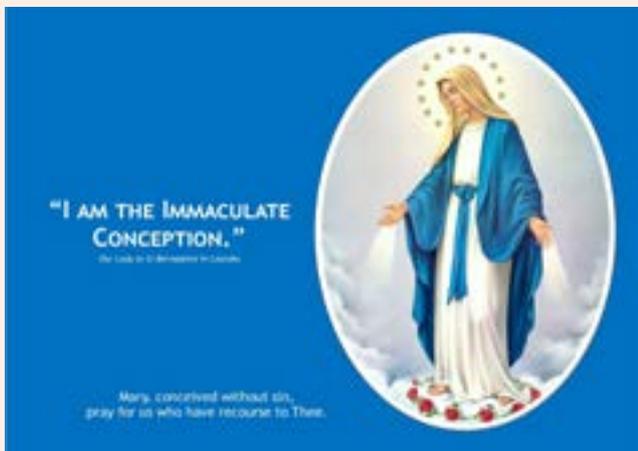
## The Reason for the Season

December has many important feasts.

## The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

The month of December is dedicated to the Immaculate Conception of The Blessed Virgin Mary. Her feast day is on Monday 8 December.

This feast encourages us to meditate on the virtue of purity. Mary was given a unique and singular privilege from God. She was preserved from Original Sin from the first moment of her Immaculate Conception. The Lord also bestowed another privilege extended from the first, that Mary would not be stained even with the failings of human weakness.



The feast of the Immaculate Conception which is a fundamental preparation for the birth of Christ aligns beautifully with the many themes of Advent.

The feast also makes reference to the long messianic waiting for the Saviour's birth and recalls events and prophecies from the Old Testament which are also used in the Liturgy of Advent.

The feast was approved in 1476 by Pope Sixtus IV. It was extended to the universal church in 1708.

The feast is not linked to Mary's virginity or the conception of Jesus Christ through the work of the Holy Spirit. It focuses solely on the Virgin Mary being preserved from original sin from the first moment of conception. It is therefore connected to the conception of Mary by her parents San Giocchino and San'Anna.

## Advent

Advent is the period leading up to Christmas. The word Advent means 'coming'. It is a time of preparation for the celebration of the birth of Jesus. It starts on the Sunday nearest to 30 November and ends on the fourth Sunday before Christmas Day.

Many Advent customs involve counting the days until

Christmas Day. Some churches have an Advent wreath with 5 candles, one for each of the 4 weeks leading up to Christmas Day and one for the day itself.

Purple is the usual liturgical colour used during Advent. It is also the colour used for the hangings around the church, the priest's vestments and for the tabernacle.

Advent reminds Christians of the sacred meaning of Christmas which is to remember and prepare for the birth of Jesus.

## Advent Wreath

During Advent, the coldest and darkest time of the year, Catholics use a special Advent wreath to represent the light of Jesus in our hearts and homes. The Advent Candles demonstrate the strong contrast between darkness and light. Jesus is 'the light of the world' that dispels the darkness of sin.

The Advent circular wreath, traditionally made of evergreen, holds 4 candles, (three purple, one pink) one lit each week of Advent. The wreath also represents Hope, Faith, Joy and Peace, with the pink candle on the 3rd week representing Gaudete Sunday, a day of rejoicing for the coming birth of Jesus.

The four candles represent the four weeks of Advent and the 4,000 years humanity waited for a saviour.

The purple colour represents prayer, penance and sacrifice - central themes of Advent.

The pink colour on the 3rd Sunday signifies the coming joy of Christ's birth.

## Advent 2025

### First week of Advent. November 30 2025

Candle name: Prophecy Candle

Represents: Hope

Colour: Purple

We remember Old Testament prophets who foretold the coming of Jesus with hope and anticipation

### 2nd week of Advent December 7 2025

Candle name: The Bethlehem Candle

Represents: Faith

Colour: Purple

We reflect on our own lives and becoming better versions of ourselves to prepare for Jesus's coming. We remember the journey of Joseph and Mary from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

### 3rd week of Advent. December 14

Name: Shepherd's Candle

Represents: Joy

Colour: Pink

Symbolizes rejoicing as we are filled with joy for the near



# Pastoral Care Pillar

arrival of Jesus on Christmas Day. Called Gaudete Sunday as we reflect on the joy the Shepherds felt at the birth of Jesus.

## 4th week of Advent. December 21

Name: Angel's Candle

Represents : Peace

Colour: Purple

Reminds us of the message of the angels: peace on earth, goodwill to all men.

St Francis of Assisi said ' All the darkness in the world cannot extinguish the light of a single candle '



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## SPECIAL MASSES 2026

**Autism Awareness:** Sunday 12th April at 11am

**Anointing Mass:** Monday 27th April at 7pm

**Bereaved Parents:** Sunday 17th May at 3pm in Community Centre

**Grandparents:** Sunday 26th July at 11am

**Suicide Awareness:** Sunday 6th September at 11am

**Anointing Mass:** Monday 5th October at 7pm

**Domestic Violence:** Sunday 25th October at 11am

**Memorial Mass:** Sunday 15th November at 3pm

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## GOLD STARS

If you would like a gold star prepared in memory of a deceased loved one, please contact the Parish Office with the details of the deceased or speak to a member of the Pastoral Care Team who will provide you with a star.

All the gold stars from previous years have been retained so it is not necessary to write or request another star if you have done so previously.

For Advent the stars will be transferred to the White Memorial Christmas Tree so that we can continue to commemorate our missed loved ones during the festive season. The tree will be lit during the Parish Carol Service on **Sunday 21st December at 3pm.**



## Finance Pillar



### Congratulations to the August Winners

£100 Sophie Horner - Number 78

£50 Liz Lucas- Number 7

£25 Sharon Jagger - Number

£25 Jo Keen - Number 186

85

87

41

Thank you to all parishioners that have renewed their subscription to the 200 Club. Only three numbers are available **85, 87 and 41.**

Subscriptions are £5 per month payable on the first day of each month. Alternatively subscriptions can be paid annually online or by cheque for £60 payable to NatWest Orpington:

**Sort Code** 60 16 03

**Account number** 77878736

**Account Name** St James the Great 200 Club.

Monthly draws take place on the second Sunday with four prizes totalling £200 paid to winners with two BIG draws in July and December with four winners and a total of £1000 paid out.

Anyone wishing to join please contact Ken Evans by telephone **01689 851793** or the Parish Office **01689 827100**



### Second collections in December

14th December - Building Fund

If payments to these second collections are being made by Bankers Order, please show the following payment references:

**Building Fund** - Build/Gift Aid Number/ Surname

Apologies for some misinformation in November's magazine. The Christmas fair will take place as usual on Sunday, 14th December. This is going to be an important weekend for the parish as Fr. Daniel's formal induction as Parish Priest will be on Friday, 12th at 7 pm, followed by a celebration in the Community Centre.

On that same weekend we have the final Building Fund collection of the year. There are several projects ongoing which are needed to keep all the buildings in good repair so your generosity throughout the year is much appreciated.

Over Christmas as always the offertory collections will be your personal gift to Fr. Daniel. Although the money collected goes directly to Fr. Daniel, donations made through the bank or the card readers or using the special envelopes can attract Gift Aid for parish funds.



# Evangelisation Pillar

## **Eucharist Adoration – Be Still in the Presence of the Lord**

Time set aside in your hectic life – wasting time in silence with God, takes place for an hour each Wednesday shortly after the Morning Mass and the Wednesday Café, starting at 10.45am and finishing with Benediction at 11.15am and on the first Friday of the month from 6pm till 8pm, one hour of silent adoration and another hour of Worship. The next will be on **Friday 5th December**. All are welcome for all or part of this time of Adoration ending with Benediction.

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## **Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina)**

A quiet reflective look at the following Sunday's Gospel. **Mondays 11 am – 12 noon**, except for Bank Holidays, meetings are via zoom. Please contact the parish office who will arrange the zoom link to be sent to you. All are welcome.

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## **Prayer Meetings on Thursdays**

Charism Thursdays exists to establish a weekly spiritual hour of rest and worship, open to anyone who is interested in Prayer Meetings and in deepening their connection with the transforming power of the Holy Spirit.

During charismatic worship songs, each member is encouraged to participate and share their spiritual gifts from a place of liberty and freedom. Rest and contemplation in the Agape love of God is primary, contributions in scripture reading, words of encouragement, pictures and prayer etc is secondary. Along with the main focus of group singing, we focus on practices of meditation and circling. These types of practices help to facilitate transformative experiences through the work of the Holy Spirit.

We have already enjoyed our first few meetings with a good response.

Everyone is welcome to participate in the **weekly event, starting at 7pm** in the church.

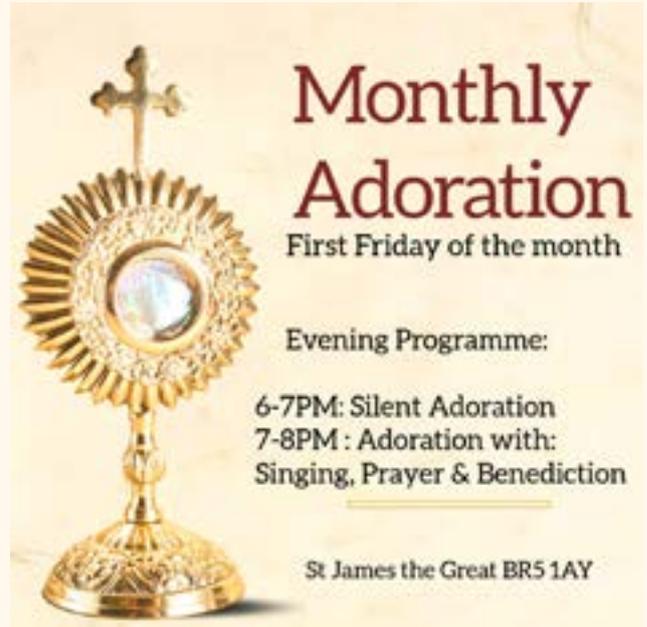
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## **Confirmation 2026**

A warm welcome to all those young people, Year 9 and above, who are looking to be confirmed next year. Sessions start in December.

Please contact the Parish Office via email [pettswood@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:pettswood@rcaos.org.uk) for a registration pack.

Please ensure that completed forms are returned to the parish office by **December 4th**.





# Evangelisation Pillar

## Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Group

### A Message from Kate - Foodbank Manager for Bromley

Dear supporters,

As Christmas approaches and the foodbank gets busier I wanted to get in touch to thank you for your support and share some of the impact that your funding has had.

In the last year your support has meant:

1. More than 8400 3-day food parcels have been provided including over 3200 to children. This is a 7% increase on last year and 11% increase in the number of children supported.
2. Households have had choice and dignity in the form of supermarket vouchers totalling over £100,000, so they can purchase fruit, vegetables and items of their choice to supplement their food parcels.
3. Our partnership with Citizens Advice Bromley has seen a net financial gain of over £500,000 in the last year, that's money back into the pockets of those who need it most.

We have extended our referral network, welcoming more schools to our partnerships. Many of our Bromley schools are working really hard to support families in need.

We have worked closely with other local charities to campaign on issues affecting our clients including disability cuts, an essentials guarantee for Universal Credit and the 2 child benefit limit. The recent budget has seen the 2 child benefit limit removed and more Bromley children will be lifted out of poverty

We see the power of local support for local people, and the strength of community in Bromley.

We are delighted that thanks to the support from local businesses (The Bromley Court Hotel, Your Bromley and

Biggin Hill Airport) alongside the Shanly Foundation we are able to double all public donations made during our Christmas Campaign. This runs from 2nd - 9th December through Big Give (<https://donate.biggive.org/campaign/a05WS000005BeGzYAK>) We are aiming to raise £14,000 to support those most in need this Christmas and through the winter.

If you are thinking of making a Christmas charity donation please support us during this campaign - your donation will have twice as much impact.

We would be grateful if you could share this with friends, family, neighbours, churches and work colleagues. Every £1 is worth double to us during this week. Do follow our social media to hear what Christmas means to so many people in Bromley.

With kind regards and grateful thanks,

Kate Sing'ombe

Foodbank Manager

Mobile: 07480 141702



#### The current needs are for:

- Long Life Fruit Juice
- Ladies Deodorant
- Squash
- Multi Surface Wipes
- Sweets/chocolate
- Nappies size 6/6+
- Tinned Puddings
- Shaving foam/Gel

There are two baskets available for your donations: both are in the main church entrance



The Foodbank warehouse **cannot accept**: baby formula, fresh, out of date, chilled or frozen food.

Financial donations are still very much appreciated and there are several ways you can donate:

- Post cash, cheques or supermarket vouchers through the Parish Office letterbox. Cheques should be payable to "Bromley Borough Foodbank".
- By direct transfer to the Foodbank's bank account  
*Bank NatWest*  
*Sort code 60-16-03*  
*Account name Bromley Borough Foodbank*  
*Account number 77879007*  
*Reference STJAMESPW*
- £5 gift vouchers for Tesco and Sainsbury's are very useful to the Foodbank

Like most volunteer run charities, our Foodbank needs monetary donations. If possible you might consider setting up a standing order to help this vital work. Bank details above.

Thank you from the Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation Group.



# Evangelisation Pillar

## Justice Peace and Integrity of Creation Group

### Cardinal Hume Centre

For the last three months the JPIC (Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation) group has been collecting sleeping bags for the street homeless. We have delivered 25 bags so far to the Cardinal Hume Centre in Victoria, which is located behind the Cathedral. This centre works with all who are homeless, to try to ease their despair.

The Centre maintains a hostel for 16 to 24 year olds who are found sleeping on the streets, and who are judged to be extra vulnerable. There are 50 rooms, each youngster is allocated a mentor and can stay for up to a year, as they attempt to "Turn their lives around".

There is also a family centre, which is open daily for those families living in a single room in a local hostel. At the Centre, mothers can bring their children to play during the day. An after-school homework club is also offered. They also have access to the Centre's food bank.

There is also a doctor's surgery on-site for the homeless. The doctor is Father Paul, who is a Jesuit priest. He is a friend to all, and is much loved. He is a focus for all the long term street homeless across Victoria. There is always a queue here, and clothes etc are kept for those who need them. This is where your donated sleeping bags are taken for distribution to those in need.

As you walk down the stairs, to the reception, the wall has small white plaques attached, inscribed with the names of those who came for help and have now died. These show their name and the dates of their birth and death. That is all that is known of them, and is the only record of their lives, as they are buried in paupers' graves. These people, as well as living on the pavements, often also die there.



# Communication Pillar

**Please may we request that no food and drink is brought into the church during Masses. If needed for medical reasons there is water available from the Welcomers during the Mass. Thank You**

## Supervision of children in hall toilets

It has come to our notice that there have been incidents of the toilets in the hall being misused. Items have been dropped in the toilet bowls and the liquid soap containers emptied onto the floor. We seek your assistance in ensuring there are no further incidents of this kind. Please be reminded you are responsible for your children at all times.

## Supervision of children in the church around the candle stands

Please ensure that all children are assisted by an adult in the lady chapel area when lighting candles.

## Parish Register

If you are new to the parish or you have not previously registered with the parish please do so via the parish website.

## Safeguarding

Every human being has a value and dignity which we as Catholics, recognise as coming from God's creation of male and female in his own image and likeness.

Our Parish and community must be a place of welcome, where each person is respected and loved, and in which everyone receives and shares their unique gifts. We support and protect each other and take care of those who may be vulnerable because of age, illness or disability or who may be vulnerable because of current or past life experiences.

We all have a responsibility to safeguard and promote the wellbeing of those who worship in our church or who join us for any activity facilitated by church members.

If you would like to volunteer to help in the Parish, please contact the Parish Office so that we can complete the DBS process.

If you would like to contact the Parish Safeguarding Team or the Central Safeguarding Office at the Diocese, contact details are:

### Parish Safeguarding Team:

Contact via the Parish Office or:

**Kate Charlesworth** [pettswoodsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk](mailto:pettswoodsg1@safeguardrcaos.org.uk)  
07591 082743

**Central Safeguarding Office** [safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk)  
0207 261 1606

## Help Needed

Would you like to become a Welcomer? We would love some families who would be willing to come to Mass a little earlier to help hand out hymn books and Mass sheets.

We urgently need more welcomers at the Sunday 9.15am masses.

Do you have half an hour spare to help run the Repository (shop) after the three weekend Masses, 6pm, 9.15am and 11am Masses.

Please let the Parish Office know if you are able to help.

## Wednesday Lunches

The next Wednesday lunch is scheduled for **Wednesday, 21st January**, from 11.45am. Please join us for a light lunch.

We are looking to add to our team of helpers. Please contact the parish office if you can help serving a light light to parishioners once a month.

## The Companions Afternoon Club

Who are we? What do we do?

We meet in the Church Community Centre every week. We play scrabble, Triominos, indoor curling, table tennis and we hope to start Line-dancing. Maybe you have ideas as to what you may like to do? So do come and join us in the **Community Centre at 1.30pm to 4.30pm on the first two Wednesdays and the second two Tuesdays of the month.** Here is a chance to get to know some really lovely people!

December's dates for The Companions Afternoon Club:

**Wednesday 3rd and 10th**

**Tuesday 16th and 23rd**

Doors open **1.30pm**. All welcome.

## Save The Date

Fr Daniels Induction into the Parish will be on **Friday 12th December at 7pm**. All Parishioners are invited to attend the Mass followed by a celebration in the Community centre.

## Confirmation 2026

Please remember to contact the Parish Office to register your child for next year's Confirmation programmes cut off for all applications will be **Thursday 11th December**.



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

The Parish are in need of volunteers to help with:

**Weekday Readers**

**Making Teas and Coffees after  
9.15am and 11am Masses**

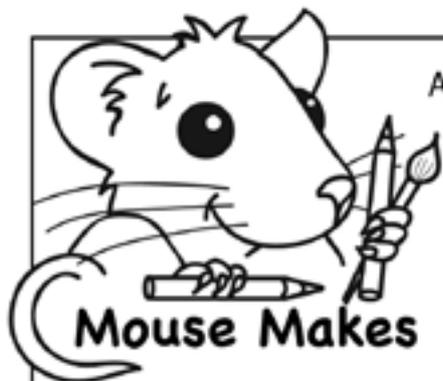
**Repository helpers to serve in the shop.**

**Wednesday Lunches helpers**

**Ushers for all three weekend Masses**

If you have any questions and are interested in one of the Volunteer Opportunities listed above, or if you are eager to get involved in the Parish and nothing listed above appeals to you, please contact the Parish Office on **01689 827100** or via email at [pettswood@rcaos.org.uk](mailto:pettswood@rcaos.org.uk)





At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus, God's Son and our Saviour coming into the world as a baby, and we look forward to the time when Jesus will come again, not as a baby but as the King of kings and Lord of lords!

read  
John 14:3

A baby needs clothes to keep warm like a snuggly sleep suit or a vest and nappy.  
*What were you dressed in?*  
Jesus was wrapped in

.....  
.....  
read Luke 2:7

A baby needs somewhere to be born like at home or in a hospital.  
*Where were you born?*  
Jesus was born in a stable in

.....  
read Luke 2:1-6

A baby needs somewhere to sleep like a crib or a cot.  
*What did you sleep in?*  
Jesus slept in a

.....  
read Luke 2:7

A baby needs a name.  
*What name were you called?*  
Jesus was given a special name that had a special meaning.

read  
Matthew 1:21-23



# HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

NADOLIG LLAWEN ☆ NOLLAIG CHRÍDHEIL ☆ NOLLAG SHONA  
JOYEUX NOËL • FELIZ NAVIDAD • BUON NATALE • GOD JUL • FROHE WEIHNACHTEN





**ST JAMES THE GREAT**  
*Catholic Church in Pets Wood*



**Father Daniel,  
Suzanne and Caroline would like to wish you all a  
Peaceful Christmas and a Happy 2026.**



**ST JAMES THE GREAT**  
Catholic Church in Pets Wood

# December Calendar 2025

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<b>1</b> 11.00am <b>Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina)</b> <b>Via Zoom</b>	<b>2</b> 2pm <b>Memory cafe</b>	<b>3</b> 10.45 - 11.15am <b>Adoration</b> 1.30pm <b>Companion Club</b> 7pm <b>Book Club</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 5pm to 9.30pm <b>Scouting meetings</b>	<b>6</b> 7pm <b>Film Night</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b> 11.00am <b>Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina)</b> <b>Via Zoom</b>	<b>9</b> 8pm <b>Table Tennis</b>	<b>10</b> 10.45 - 11.15am <b>Adoration</b> 1.30pm <b>Companion Club</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 7pm <b>Fr Daniel's Induction</b>	<b>13</b> 10am to 1pm <b>Christmas Fair Set up in Community centre</b>	<b>14</b> <b>St James Christmas Fair after the 9.15 and 11am Masses</b>
<b>15</b> 11.00am <b>Pondering the Word (Lectio Divina) Via Zoom</b> 6.30pm <b>Knights Meeting</b>	<b>16</b> 1.30pm <b>Companion Club</b> 8pm <b>Table Tennis</b>	<b>17</b> 10.45 - 11.15am <b>Adoration</b> 7.30pm <b>Catenians Meeting</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 3pm <b>Advent Carol Service</b>
<b>22</b> 6.30pm <b>Taize Service</b> 7.30pm <b>Advent Reconciliation Service</b>	<b>23</b> 1.30pm <b>Companion Club</b>	<b>24</b> 10.45 - 11.15am <b>Adoration</b> 6pm <b>Christmas Eve Mass</b> 11.30pm <b>Carols &amp; Midnight Mass</b>	<b>25</b> 9.15am <b>Christmas Day Children's Mass</b> 11am <b>Christmas Day Mass</b>	<b>26</b> 10am <b>Boxing Day Mass</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>				